A New Name for an Asplenium Hybrid

C. V. MORTON

The Scott's Spleenwort, *Asplenium ebenoides*, was demonstrated long ago to be a cross between *A. platyneuron* and *Camptosorus rhizophyllus* by Miss Slosson.[1] Later, another cross, *A. cryptolepis* Fernald [*A. Ruta-muraria* var. *cryptolepis* Wherry, as I prefer to call it] with *Camptosorus*, was described by Dr. E. Lucy Braun.

It has recently been rather conclusively demonstrated by Dr. Warren H. Wagner, Jr.,[2] that the well-known *Asplenium pinnatifidum* is a fertile tetraploid (allopolyploid) derived by the crossing of *Asplenium montanum* and *Camptosorus rhizophyllus*. This being so, it is quite likely that this crossing is taking place *de novo* occasionally, and that some plants of *A. pinnatifidum* found in the wild may be sterile diploid hybrids, the result of recent hybridization and not the descendants of pre-existing plants of *A. pinnatifidum*. A condition similar to this has been shown by Dr. Wagner to exist in *A. ebenoides*, for the Alabama population of this is a full-fledged "species," being a fertile tetraploid, whereas plants occurring elsewhere are newly formed, sterile diploid hybrids. Dr. Wagner has indicated that other Aspleniums also, such as *A. Trudellii*, *A. Gravesii*, and *A. kentuckiense*, have some *Camptosorus* "blood" in them, being crosses of *pinnatifidum*.

As I pointed out in my review of Wagner's paper,[3] these facts point up a serious nomenclatural difficulty. The International Code of Botanical Nomenclature provides that intergeneric hybrids (if designated by more than a formula, i.e. *Asplenium platyneuron* × *Campto-*

---

[1] "The Origin of Asplenium ebenoides," Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 29: 487–495. 1902.

[2] "Reticulate Evolution in the Appalachian Aspleniums," Evolution 8: 103–118. *fig. 1–8*. 1954.

[3] This JOURNAL, 45: 25, 26. 1955.